

WOMAN, SHOT DOWN IN DARK, NEAR DEATH AS DEPUTIES HUNT

Mrs. John Meagher Attacked While at Home Near Clarendon—Assailant Escapes Without Leaving Clue.

Authorities Question Soldiers at Fort Myer in Effort to Find If Would-Be Assassin Was Soldier.

Addition of another murder mystery to the criminal annals of Alexandria county hinges today on whether Mrs. John W. Meagher, wife of Private John W. Meagher, of Battery D, Third United States Field Artillery, mysteriously shot while on the porch of her home at Courtlands, near Clarendon, Va., about 11 o'clock last night, survives her injuries.

Even should the victim of the shooting recover, the affair promises to be an unsolved mystery. No one saw the assailant, the shot being fired from the dark in the rear of her home as the woman opened the door and stepped to the porch. No theory as to the motive or the shooting has yet been advanced and not the slightest clue as to the identity of the person who fired the shot has been obtained by the county authorities, who have worked incessantly on the case since midnight.

Wounded In Left Breast.

Mrs. Meagher is suffering from a wound in the left breast. The bullet entered several inches above the heart and worked its way to the spine, where it lodged. Physicians at the Georgetown University Hospital, where she was taken in the Fort Myer ambulance, declare that the woman's chances for recovery are very slight.

Private Meagher, her husband, was asleep on the second floor of the house when the shot was fired. The report aroused him and he ran downstairs. Seeing the rear door of the house open he went to the porch and there found Mrs. Meagher prostrate. "I'm shot, I'm shot," was all she could say.

As soon as she could be taken into the house and a doctor summoned. Meagher's fifteen-year-old son, and a number of neighbors started to scour the vicinity in an effort to locate the woman's assailant. No one in the neighborhood had seen any person near the Meagher home. Within half an hour after the shooting, Sheriff A. H. Barber and Deputy Sheriff Harry Palmer started an investigation. The investigation started at Fort Myer, it being attempted to ascertain what soldiers entered the fort immediately following the shooting.

Started At Random.

Admission was made late this afternoon by the authorities that their investigation among the soldiers was started at random as they had no clue which substantiated the belief that a soldier did the shooting.

Private Meagher told the authorities that he had no idea who had held any malice against his wife. He said that he knew of no person with whom she was on odds or with whom she had quarreled.

Young Meagher, the wounded woman's son, who arrived on the scene a short time after the shooting expressed the same views.

Mrs. Meagher is about fifty years old. She has two sons, the other being twenty-four years of age. She has been married nearly thirty years.

COMMITTEE FAVORS PROBING ELECTIONS

The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections today decided to report to the Senate the Norris resolution calling for an investigation into the charges of unwarranted and corrupt campaign expenditures in Illinois and Pennsylvania.

The resolution was broadened by an amendment which provides that the investigation shall be conducted in any other State where there is any evidence or evidence is presented to sustain the charge.

This means that if the Senate adopts the resolution there will be a sweeping inquiry into the allegations that huge campaign funds were used in Illinois in behalf of Roger Sullivan and in Pennsylvania in behalf of Senator Boies Pennington. The resolution is aimed especially at them, though they are not named.

Rain Is Promised Again for Tonight

Forecaster Predicts That the Down-fall Will Continue Through Tomorrow in Washington.

Washington pedestrians must trudge through the rain again tonight and tomorrow, according to the prediction given today by Forecaster Bowie, of the Weather Bureau. Warmer weather, with rain tonight and tomorrow, is the forecast.

The rain will be general through the Eastern States, with heavy downpours changing to snow in New York and the New England territory. Rising temperatures will accompany the precipitation.

Twenty-eight degrees was the lowest reached by the mercury last night. This morning is predicted as the minimum temperature tonight. The warmer weather is expected to continue. There is no cold weather promised for the section east of the Mississippi valley.

CONTEST EXPECTED OVER SUNDAY PLAN

Petition Being Circulated by Those Opposed to Bringing Evangelist to Capital.

A spirited contest is expected next Wednesday evening, when the city-wide conference between pastors and laymen from every Protestant church meets to consider calling Billy Sunday to Washington for a campaign.

A petition is being circulated among pastors of the city by those who oppose a Sunday campaign. That such a petition is going the rounds of clergy-men is admitted, but they decline to discuss the plan to oppose Sunday's coming.

"I cannot say anything at this time about such a petition," said the Rev. Dr. Charles Stock, pastor of the Church of the Epiphany. "I am opposed to bringing Mr. Sunday to Washington."

Dr. Stock and the Rev. William A. Wade are the two Lutheran clergymen leading the crusade against inviting Billy Sunday here.

Summons Tumulty To Sullivan Probe

Senator-elect Phelan Calls at White House to Arrange for Testimony.

Senator-elect J. M. Phelan of California, who is holding the hearing in connection with the charges against James M. Sullivan, American minister to the Dominican Republic, called today at the White House and made arrangements with Joseph P. Tumulty, Secretary to the President, to testify as soon as Mr. Phelan gets back from Santo Domingo.

In the meantime the hearings will be continued this week at the Shorsham Hotel, beginning this afternoon. Mr. Phelan will leave for the Dominican Republic Wednesday to examine the evidence and from there to the republic. At the hearing this afternoon, First Assistant Secretary of State Osborne and Third Assistant Secretary Phillips were the witnesses.

Held For Theft Of Gem From Ring

Girl's Brother Charged With Taking Diamond From Engagement Token.

Charged with stealing the diamond out of his sister's engagement ring, John Martinek, arrested by the Baltimore police at the instigation of the Washington authorities, was brought back to this city today by Detective Charles Mullen, of the Central Office.

Proposes To Abolish All District Saloons

Abolition of saloons in the District of Columbia is sought in a bill which has been introduced in the House by Congressman Samuel W. Smith of Michigan. The bill provides that at the expiration of the present saloon licenses, the granting of licenses shall cease and the saloons be wiped out of existence.

Prohibition, however, is not sought in the measure, which provides that licenses may still be issued for the sale of intoxicants in hotels, restaurants, clubs, cafes, and lunch rooms, and that such places, for the purposes of the law proposed, shall be known as "cafes."

WOULD FIX LICENSE AT \$300.

Under the bill the license fee is fixed at \$300 a year, but it is proposed that no license shall be issued unless accompanied by a approved bond of \$1,000 to make sure of the proper conduct of the cafe.

Bar, as drinking places, would be abolished by a provision which forbids the serving of any drinks over a counter, and makes necessary provision for tables and chairs for patrons.

Screened doors and other devices for excluding the interior view of cafes are put under the ban by the bill as is also the exhibition in such places of signs or advertisements.

If this bill becomes law the cafes will be regarded as public utilities and will be under the supervision of the superintendent of cafes, to be appointed by the President. His duties would be to issue licenses and supervise the conduct of drinking places.

LOAVES CUT TWO OUNCES IN DISTRICT SINCE AUGUST

Superintendent Sherman Says Average Size of Loaf Varies From 12 to 13 Ounces—Reduction of 17 Per Cent.

Further Decrease in Size Presaged Unless Legislative Action Is Taken—No Standard Bread Law.

The weight of the average loaf of bread in this city has decreased nearly 17 per cent since the outbreak of the war in Europe, little more than six months ago, sent the price of wheat and flour soaring, according to the figures available in the office of the superintendent of markets, weights, and measures. Prior to July, in the six years following the action of the courts in declaring the standard bread law illegal, the weight of the average loaf was reduced only 6 1/2 per cent.

Furthermore, indications are not lacking that unless legislative relief can be obtained, the weight of bread will decline much more rapidly in the next six months.

Lacking a standard bread law, there is usually some increase in the weight of loaves when wheat declines in price, but this decline is infinitesimal, declared Supt. John L. Sherman today, as compared with the decrease in weight incident to high-priced wheat. The net result is a constant tendency to higher priced bread.

Support Fair Maker.

"Stand by the baker who is square and fair in his dealings," urged Mr. Sherman. "Though your home scales may not be accurate, they will show the relative weights of bread, and, with little difference in quality, by buying the bread of the baker who gives the greatest weight the housekeeper will be encouraging the baker who is trying to treat her fairly."

The records of Mr. Sherman's office show that the weight of loaves put out by the leading bakers at the present time vary from twelve to thirteen ounces. Last July, practically none were less than fifteen ounces, or a loss of but one ounce in the six years following the decision voiding the law that required all loaves to weigh sixteen ounces.

Loaf of Bread to Cost Six Cents in New York

NEW YORK, Feb. 5.—New York will be paying 6 cents a loaf for its bread next week unless there is a sudden drop in flour prices. Many dealers have notified their customers to this effect.

"We have held out as long as we could," said one of the message sent out to retailers and customers.

Driver Hurt in Crash.

Charles Houser, nineteen years old, of 3245 Prospect street northwest, was injured about the face, arms, and legs this morning when a milk wagon which he was driving was struck by a Capital Traction car at Eighth street and Florida avenue northwest.

Corner Rumor Puts Wheat Still Higher

"Man of Great Wealth" May Be Sought—Federal Officials May Act.

CHICAGO, Feb. 5.—On the heels of persistent but unconfirmed rumors that "a man of great wealth" will attempt to corner May wheat, that grain shot to a new high price record today.

Thirty minutes after the Board of Trade began business, May wheat jumped to \$1.65 per bushel. The next 15 minutes showed a recession in May of 1/2 cent.

Traders insisted that speculation has nothing to do with the situation. Federal District Attorney Cline, when asked regarding an attempted corner, merely said:

"I have nothing to say now. I will make a statement later in the day."

GORE SEES WAY TO SAVE SHIPPING BILL

Oklahoma Offers Resolution to Discharge Committee From Considering His Bill.

Senator Gore of Oklahoma made a new move in connection with the shipping bill today, which the Democratic leaders hope will get the measure out of its tangle.

Thursday he introduced a new shipping bill which was referred to the Commerce Committee. It was really the Fletcher substitute with the substance of the Norris amendments.

Today Senator Gore introduced a resolution to discharge the Committee on Commerce from consideration of his bill. He gave notice he will call it up tomorrow.

While this will stir up a big fight, there is a possibility, in the minds of Democratic leaders, that the motion to discharge can be carried. It seems to be their only hope of saving the ship warfare legislation. If this maneuver fails it looks as if the bill would be dead.

Sees Small Chance Of P. O. in Avenue

Praeger Declares Department Is Working On Scheme for General Retrenchment.

Though assurance has been given by Postmaster Praeger of the futility of consideration of the petition of Pennsylvania avenue business men for the establishment of a classified postal station in the Postoffice Department building, there is said to be a possibility that such action will be taken at this time.

An interview with the petitioners the postmaster declared that he saw little possibility of such an extension of service at the present time. The Washington office, as well as all other big postoffices in the country, is at the moment of order from the Postmaster General, studying the strictest economy to keep postal expenditures down to or near the receipts, and to make up the millions being spent on rural service.

Postmaster Praeger is investigating the complaint and of the contentions of the petitioners, and will, he said today, do everything in his power to make their action the best.

Patent Attorney Released on Bail

Mansell F. Mills, Arrested By Postal Authorities, to Be Granted Hearing Feb. 16.

Mansell F. Mills, patent attorney and Washington city postoffice employee, charged with taking two packages, one containing \$1,000 and the other \$5,000 from the mails, is at liberty today under \$7,000 bonds. He will be given a hearing before the United States Commissioner Hitt on February 16 at 11 o'clock.

Mills was arrested several weeks ago charged with the larceny of the \$1,000 package. He was released under bond of \$2,000. Yesterday he was taken into custody again on a charge of having stolen a package containing \$5,000 in small bills from the mails on December 27. He was arraigned before United States Commissioner Hitt and pleaded not guilty. Bond in this case was fixed at \$5,000.

President Leases Churchill's Home

Will Again Occupy Place at Cornish, N. H., As a "Summer White House."

President Wilson again has leased the home of Winston Churchill, the novelist, at Cornish, N. H., for use as a "summer white house." Although the lease formerly held by him expired last autumn, it was thought that he would spend his summer elsewhere, he has decided to take the place for another year.

If there is no extra session of Congress and there are no reasons of international importance to keep him in Washington, the President will enjoy next summer, the first real vacation he has had since he entered the White House.

IN CONGRESS TODAY.

Met at noon.

Senator Gore takes new tack in the shipping bill fight.

Privileges and Elections Committee favors campaign fund investigations in Pennsylvania and Illinois.

GERMANS TAKE CAPTIVE 6,000 RUSS IN NEW WARSAW DRIVE

Czar's Forces Counter-Attacking With Great Fury to Halt Further Advances by Mackensen's Army.

Muscovites Attempt to Renew Offensive Near Tilsit in East Prussia—Berlin Claims Repulses of French.

BERLIN (via wireless to Sayville), Feb. 5.—Six thousand Russian prisoners have been taken by Gen. Von Mackensen's army in its new drive on Warsaw, it was officially announced here this afternoon. This report includes only prisoners taken in the last four days' fighting. Among the captives are twenty-six officers.

To halt further advances by Mackensen's army, the Russians are counter-attacking with great fury. Their efforts to retake positions east of Bolimow recently occupied by the Germans have broken under heavy artillery fire.

Russ Resume Offensive.

In East Prussia, near Tilsit, there are indications that the Russians are attempting to resume the offensive. The Germans have repulsed "strong Russian attacks" along the Niemen river.

Present fighting in Poland and France is regarded as unimportant by the war office. The French made a playing shell upon the German positions northwest of Perthes, but were repulsed. Elsewhere artillery duels are in progress.

Germans Hurl Fresh Thousands Upon Russ Position Near Warsaw

PETROGRAD, Feb. 5.—One hundred thousand Germans are hurling themselves in headlong rushes against the Russian earthworks west of Warsaw, it was officially announced today.

One of the greatest battles of the war is developing. Seven divisions of Germans, comprising the flower of Von Hindenburg's armies, are making impetuous frontal attacks upon the Russians between the Bzura and Rawka. Behind them 100 German batteries are playing shells upon the Russian trenches. The snowy fields west of the Polish capital are crimson with blood.

Fifty thousand fresh German troops (Continued on Second Page.)

TURK ARMY MASSES ALONG SUEZ CANAL

Delay Advance on English Positions Pending Arrival of Re-enforcements.

ATHENS, Feb. 5.—Turkish troops numbering at least 20,000 have crossed Sinai Peninsula and are now massing along the Suez Canal between Port Said and Suez, according to advices received here today.

The Turks are delaying a general advance upon the English positions, pending the arrival of strong Ottoman forces reported coming up in their rear.

Preliminary skirmishes continue near El Kantara and at several points farther south.

Warships Rush to Succor Japanese

American Cruiser and Gunboat Respond to Call of Distressed Craft In Pacific.

With the cruiser San Diego and gunboat Raleigh speeding to the rescue of the wrecked Japanese cruiser Amatsuki off Batuloma bay, the Navy Department anxiously awaited further news this afternoon concerning the warship.

Up to a late hour nothing more had been heard from Admiral Howard, who sent help to the distressed cruiser. Although last reports said the cruiser was breaking up, Secretary of the Navy Daniels expressed the belief that the rescue ship would arrive in time to save at least some of the crew of 500 men.

Florida "East Coast" Resorts Reached by N. Y. & Florida Special.

Coast Line, 8:30 p. m. 3 other all steel ltd. trains daily. 105 New York Ave. N. W. Adv.

Germany's Defi Answered

Germany's announcement of the proposed establishment of a "paper blockade" about Great Britain and Ireland has met with prompt action by England and the United States.

Strenuous protest will be made by the United States through Ambassador Gerard at Berlin. The issue was discussed at length at the meeting of the Cabinet today, and it is understood that prompt action will follow.

England has answered the defi in characteristic fashion. At a special meeting of admiralty officials it is understood that it was decided to order the flotilla of destroyers back from the North Sea to sweep the seas clean of the submarine menace.

America Faces Gravest Peril of War As Result Of Germany's Blockade

Declaration Making Waters Surrounding the British Islands, North of France, and Holland a War Zone Causes Perplexing Foreign Complication—Act an Experiment.

By JUDSON C. WELLIVER.

Never since the present war began has the danger of foreign complications involving the United States been so serious as it is now, following the German admiralty's declaration that the waters surrounding the British Islands, the north of France, and neutral Holland, will after February 18 constitute a "zone of war."

The owner or commander of an American ship sailing from New York to Rotterdam, for instance—both being ports of neutral powers—will seek in vain for exact information as to what constitutes a zone of war.

If it were a question of transacting commerce by land the question would not be so difficult. The zone of war in land campaigning is a definitely understood affair. Anybody who enters it does so at his peril. He may be hit by a bullet, or regarded as a spy. But such an institution as a zone of war on the seas, which three miles from land are esteemed the property of no nation, is unknown.

NOT SAME AS BLOCKADE.

A zone of war cannot be equivalent to a blockade, for two reasons. One is that if Germany had meant to declare a blockade, she would have said so. There was no need to invent a new term for it. The other is that no actual blockade exists, and to proclaim a blockade would have been useless, because the powers assembled at Paris in 1864 agreed that:

"Blockades, in order to be binding, must be effective; that is to say, must be maintained by a force sufficient really to prevent access to the enemy's coast."

No such blockade has been established in the waters which Germany now delimits as a "zone of war." Therefore, if a zone of war is not the same as a blockade, and is a new institution of international law, it is a new rule for dealing with the realm of experiment with the patience of neutral countries.

Further indicated by the terms of the German proclamation, the proclamation said that every enemy's ship must be destroyed, "even if it is impossible to avert dangers which threaten the crew and passengers." This is distinctly a new rule for dealing with shipping. The established regulations of international law provide that when a merchant ship is seized, if she cannot be taken into a home port of the captor, she may be sunk. But before sinking her the captor must take off passengers and crew, so that their lives will not be sacrificed.

Humane Rule Suspended.

The German proclamation is an announcement that this humane rule is suspended. Under it a neutral ship may be sunk without taking the trouble to remove crew and passengers. Again, the German proclamation says that neutral ships are in danger in the zone.

This modification, which had grown into recognition as modern international law, provides in general that when a neutral ship is seized, in order to starve them into submission, supplies destined for them may be captured. It is held that the attempt by the Germans to send supplies into the blockade port is a violation of the law.

(Continued on Second Page.)

Order Fleet to Sweep Sea Clear of Germans

Kaiser's advisers are becoming desperate. Neither admiralty officials nor representatives of the big shipping interests would concede for a moment that Germany could carry out her threat to shut off England's food supplies.

The English nation turned its eyes toward America today. What the United States will say to the German admiralty's announcement that neutral ships may be endangered by German submarines was considered only secondary in importance to the German proclamation itself.

"Any attempt by the Germans to ignore the American flag is to be strenuously resisted," said the naval writer of the Daily Chronicle, "would be a hostile act toward the United States. To sink an American liner, with her passengers and crew, would be an atrocity that would almost inevitably mean war."

That the United States will make formal protest against the German decree upon its receipt at Washington, is deemed certain here. Admiralty officials professed confidence today that neither America nor any of the other strong neutral powers would respect what they called a "paper blockade" of the British coast. In some quarters it was suggested that the United States might join with other neutral powers in a formal protest to Germany.

U. S. PREPARES TO PROTEST BLOCKADE OF BRITISH COAST

State Department Understood To Be Working on Representations Now To Be Sent to Berlin.

President Calls Meeting of Cabinet, and Matter Is Threshed Out—Germany Desperate, Is Belief of Many

Vigorous protests will be forwarded by this Government to Berlin against the action of Germany in establishing a "paper blockade" around the coasts of England, Scotland and France, and a portion of Holland. These representations, it is understood, are now being prepared in the State Department and soon will be sent to Ambassador Gerard at Berlin.

It is the contention of many officials that the German decree, violates every principle of international law, set up and fought for by this country in behalf of the rights of neutral commerce, by threatening destruction to every neutral ship which fails to observe the blockade. The belief grows apparently in the minds of many officials that Germany, made desperate, is trying to drag the United States into the war.

Drop In Wheat Expected.

It is expected that one of the first effects of the decree will be to cause a heavy break in the wheat market which, by reason of the war demands, has recently set up record-breaking prices.

Regarding the charge made by Germany in the official decree that her action is made necessary by the misuse of neutral flags by British transports and supply vessels, officials of the Administration declare that no information of such misuse had ever come to this country.

The whole situation was threshed out of the President and his Cabinet in a long meeting today in the President's private study. For the first time in months, Robert Lansing, counselor of the State Department, was present. He represented Secretary of State Bryan, who is in the Middle West, making political speeches.

Mr. Lansing took with him to the White House a portfolio containing a bulky collection of dispatches, many of which related to the German decree. While he declared that he had not received indirect information as to its contents, he indicated that he had received indirect information as to its contents.

More Extension Than Supposed.

It was pointed out that in its application as to include the English Channel and the coasts of England, Ireland, Scotland, France, and Holland, it was much more extensive than had been supposed. He declined to confirm the report that a protest would be registered.

Although it was suggested in some quarters this morning that this Government might wait until an American ship was destroyed under this blockade, it is, nevertheless, believed that representations would be filed at once. In the first place, it was pointed out, just as this Government argued in its contra-blocade protest to England, injury to one ship is denationalizing to American trade generally, and compensation for one ship sailing off sufficient to meet the general loss. On the other hand, it is stated, if an American ship were blown up and her crew and passengers killed, popular opinion in this country probably could not be restrained.

VILLA ORDER CHECKS DIAS-HUERTA PLAN

Refuses to Recognize Sales or Mortgages to Finance Revolution Propaganda.

Following his assumption of supreme civil power in northern Mexico, General Villa has notified all consulates of the convention government that he will not recognize the validity of mortgages of property by reactionaries Mexicans for the purpose of aiding a new political movement designed to retake the Diaz-Huerta elements to power in Mexico.

A movement has been set on foot in the United States, according to a statement issued by Villa today and transmitted to Enriquez, C. Lorente, his agent in Washington, to finance such a movement by sales and mortgages of property of rich land owners in northern Mexico.

General Villa has appointed General Felipe Angeles as secretary of war in his new cabinet, according to advices received here.